

Hertfordshire data for the Green Carpet, is most interesting, as it suggests that there may in fact be three broods in a year. Records stop abruptly at 24 June, re-appear from 7-29 July then stop again until 13 August after which they continue to 23 September (Everett's records having been excluded). This present year, the August/September brood is certainly a large one, though almost all the individuals are diminutive.

Post-1994 Hertfordshire records of Willow Beauty *Peribatodes rhomboidaria*, with those submitted by Everett similarly eliminated, run from 16 June to 23 September, again in good accord with the Watford data. This date band is not continuous however, and fragments into six discrete units: 16-24 June, 1 July, 7 July, 15 July-29 August, 10 September then 21-23 September.— COLIN W. PLANT, 14 West Road, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire CM23 3QP.

### **Notes on possible overwintering Red Admirals *Vanessa atalanta* (L.) (Lep.: Nymphalidae) in Cambridge**

There have been a number of notes in this journal recording the occurrence of Red Admirals *Vanessa atalanta* in Britain during the winter months (eg., *Ent. Rec.* **112**: 130; 187; 214) and such records are also a regular feature of the annual immigration reviews (eg., *Ent. Rec.* **112**: 68; 248). Many others continue to be reported in sundry publications and via telephone and electronic media. In Hertfordshire (vice-county 20), although I have no personal observations earlier than 20 March, winter records are now reported annually here or in adjoining Middlesex (Murray et. al. 1997-2001. *Hertfordshire and Middlesex Butterfly and Moth Reports*. Butterfly Conservation).

In Cambridge (VC 29), a Red Admiral was seen in a quadrangle at Wolfson College almost daily between 5 October and 17 November 2000, the dependability of this individual being in contrast to the transience of those moving south during the pronounced autumn migration that year. On several occasions it was seen to rest in the branches of a mature *Cedrus atlantica* cultivar, and this is likely to have been a regular roosting site. At nearby Trumpington, another Red Admiral was active in the late morning sunshine of 17 February 2001. The air temperature was about 8°C, and the habitat again included mature conifers as well as dense ivy.

The above observations demonstrate the continued difficulty in confidently ascribing winter records of this species either to overwintering, or to early immigration. My initial response was tentatively to allocate the Trumpington individual to the former category, as the previous five nights had all produced temperatures at or below freezing point, making unassisted movement into the country seem unlikely. Nevertheless, at least ten other Red Admirals were reported during February 2001, and most coincided, as did mine, with a sequence of records of Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui* (L.) in the south and south-west of England, most of which appear to have been migrants (*Atropos* **13**: 68).— C. M. EVERETT, The Lodge, Kytes Drive, Watford, Herts WD25 9NZ.